

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations



No. 284

(3 June 2002)



General Situation during May 2002 Forecast until mid-July 2002

The Desert Locust situation continued to be calm during May. Only a few individual adults were seen in western Pakistan. Conditions remained dry in most areas except in parts of eastern Ethiopia and northwestern Somalia. A tropical depression caused heavy rains and flooding in southern Oman but no locusts have been reported so far. Small-scale breeding is likely to commence in the Sahel of West Africa and Sudan with the onset of the summer rains. No significant developments are likely during the forecast period.

Western Region. No locusts were reported in the region during May and conditions were dry except in a few parts of central **Mauritania** where there is enough green vegetation to allow low numbers of locusts to survive. There were unconfirmed reports of swarms and adult concentrations in northern **Mali** during March and April. Most of these are expected to be Tree Locust rather than Desert Locust. Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in southern Mauritania, northern Mali and **Niger** with the onset of the summer rains. No significant developments are likely.

Central Region. No locusts were reported in the region during May. Unusually heavy rains associated with a tropical depression fell in southern **Oman** and flooding occurred in some places. Good rains also fell in parts of eastern **Ethiopia** and northwestern **Somalia** where conditions are favourable for breeding. Small-scale breeding is likely to occur in western and central **Sudan** with the onset of the summer rains. No significant developments are likely.

Eastern Region. Dry conditions prevailed throughout the region. A few individual locusts were seen in the spring breeding areas in western **Pakistan** where vegetation was drying out. No locusts were seen during a joint Iran/Pakistan survey of the spring breeding areas in April.

The FAO Desert Locust Bulletin is issued monthly, supplemented by Updates during periods of increased Desert Locust activity, and is distributed by fax, e-mail, FAO pouch and airmail by the Locust and Other Migratory Pests Group, AGP Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy. It is also available on the internet.

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No. 284

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN



Weather and Ecological Conditions in May 2002

Conditions remained dry and unfavourable for breeding throughout the Desert Locust recession area during May. A tropical depression caused heavy rains and flooding in southern Oman. Rainfall also occurred in parts of eastern Africa. Temperatures were high in the Sahel of West Africa and Sudan prior to the onset of the summer rains.

In **West Africa**, very little rainfall occurred and mainly dry conditions prevailed throughout the region in May. In Mauritania, widespread clouds were present over southern and central areas on the 22-26th. This gave rise to light rainfall in Kiffa and Akjoujt and traces in Aioun and Tidjikja. Ecological conditions were reported to be favourable for locust survival but not breeding in southwest Tagant near El Khatt and Tamassoumit. In Mali, the first rains of the season fell in the west at Nara on the 17th and light rains occurred at Gao on the 28th. Strong hot winds associated with dust storms were reported in the Adrar des Iforas and Timetrine where conditions are favourable for locust survival. The ITCZ was generally well south of the Desert Locust breeding areas except at the end of the month when it reached 20°N over Niger.

In **North-West Africa**, light to moderate rainfall associated with eastward-moving depressions over



A tropical depression that formed over the Indian Ocean moved inland in southern Oman, causing good rains to fall on 9-10 May. The short-lived depression weakened and moved north where it dispersed on 13 May. [adopted IR image 10 May, 1200h]

the Mediterranean occurred in some areas during May. In Morocco, light rains fell in a few places along the southern side of the Atlas Mountains. Hot easterly Chergui winds continued throughout the month, causing temperatures to reach 41°C in the south. The green vegetation that developed in the extreme southwest during February and March was reported to be drying out. In Algeria, isolated showers fell at times during the first half of the month in the northern Sahara where high temperatures persisted, reaching 40°C. Dry vegetation and unfavourable breeding conditions persisted elsewhere in the region.

In **Eastern Africa**, mainly dry conditions prevailed throughout the region during May. Good rains associated with the short rains season (Belg) fell at times during the first three weeks of the month in parts of eastern Ethiopia where Jijiga reported 70 mm and Dire Dawa 10 mm. Light rains also fell in adjacent areas of the interior in northwestern Somalia between Hargeisa and Boroma. In Sudan, light rains fell in the Eastern Region near Kassala on the 25th and in parts of Northern Kordofan on the 29th. Conditions are favourable for breeding in northwestern Somalia and in eastern Ethiopia near Jijiga. They are expected to improve in Northern Kordofan and near Kassala in Sudan.

In the **Near East**, good rains fell over the southern Arabian Peninsula in May for the third month in a row. The rains were associated with a short-lived tropical depression that formed over the Indian Ocean during the first week of the month and reached the southern coast of Oman on 9 May. In the next few days, it moved further inland across the Dhofar Hills to the edge of the Empty Quarter, then northwards to UAE and northern Oman until it dispersed on the 13th. Moderate to heavy rains were concentrated in coastal areas of southern Oman where Raysut reported 67 mm and Salalah 59 mm, as well as parts of the interior (Thumrait, 24 mm). In some areas, flooding occurred. Light to heavy rains fell in northern Oman along the Batinah coast and in the interior regions (Dakhliya, Dhahira, and Sharkiya) as well as in parts of UAE. There is no indication that the storm crossed into eastern Yemen. Dry and unfavourable breeding conditions were reported throughout the region.

In **South-West Asia**, no rainfall was reported in the region except for light showers in the Baluchistani interior in western Pakistan at Panjgur at mid-month. Consequently, conditions are dry and unfavourable for breeding. The southwesterly wind flow from the Horn of Africa that brings the monsoon rains to subcontinent became established over the Arabian Sea from the second week of May onwards.



Area Treated

No control operations were reported during May.



Desert Locust Situation and Forecast

(see also the summary on page 1)

WEST AFRICA

Mauritania

- SITUATION

A few isolated adults were reported during the first half of May.

- FORECAST

Low numbers of adults are likely to be present in parts of Inchiri and southern Adrar as well as in the summer breeding areas of Tagant, Trarza and northern Brakna. Small-scale breeding will commence with the onset of the summer rains. No significant developments are likely.

Mali

- SITUATION

A late report indicated that there were several unconfirmed sightings of maturing swarms and small concentrations of locusts in the Adrar des Iforas Aguelhok (1927N/0052E) during March and April. On 15 March, Desert Locust mixed with *Anacridium* sp. (Tree Locust) was seen flying northwards at Aguelhok (1927N/0052E). On 5 April, concentrations were present nearby at Tirikfen and, on the 8th, locusts were seen flying northwards at Taouloust (1920N/0040E) and Ratai (1928N/0051E). It is unlikely that any of these are actually swarms.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults may be present and will persist in parts of Timetrine and the Adrar des Iforas where vegetation remains green. Small-scale breeding will commence with the onset of the summer rains. No significant developments are likely.

Niger

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

Isolated adults are likely to be present in a few places of Tamesna. Small-scale breeding will commence with the onset of the summer rains. No significant developments are likely.

Chad

- SITUATION

No reports received.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Senegal

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during May.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Guinea Conakry

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

NORTH-WEST AFRICA

Algeria

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during May.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Morocco

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during May.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported and no surveys were carried out during May.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

Tunisia

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported during May.

- FORECAST

No significant developments are likely.

EASTERN AFRICA

Sudan

- SITUATION

No locusts were reported and no surveys were carried out during May.



No. 284



No. 284

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

- **FORECAST**

Isolated adults are likely to appear during the forecast period in Northern Kordofan and Northern Darfur where small-scale breeding will commence with the onset of the rains. No significant developments are likely.

Eritrea

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Somalia

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during May and surveys are planned for June.

- **FORECAST**

Isolated adults may be present in a few areas along the coastal plains between Djibouti and Las Koreh and on the escarpment between Boroma and Erigavo. There is a possibility of breeding in some of these areas where recent rains have fallen. No significant developments are likely.

Ethiopia

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were seen during surveys carried out near Dire Dawa and Jijiga on 11-15 May.

- **FORECAST**

Although conditions may be favourable for breeding, the likelihood that locusts are present is very low and, consequently, no significant developments are expected.

Djibouti

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

NEAR EAST

Saudi Arabia

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during May.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Yemen

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported and no surveys were carried out during May.

- **FORECAST**

Low numbers of adults may be present in the interior near Wadi Hadhramaut and Shabwah. Surveys to clarify the situation are highly recommended in these areas.

Egypt

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported from the Red Sea coastal plains or in the Western Desert during May.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Kuwait

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Oman

- **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported in Musandam and Batinah regions in the north during May.

- **FORECAST**

There is a low possibility that isolated adults may be present in areas of recent rainfall in the south. No significant developments are likely.

United Arab Emirates

- **SITUATION**

No reports received.

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria Arab Republic and Turkey

- **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

SOUTH-WEST ASIA

Iran

- **SITUATION**

A late report indicated that no locusts were seen during the Iran/Pakistan Joint Survey carried out in Sistan-Baluchistan in the first half of April.

No locusts were reported in Hormozgan province in mid May.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.

Pakistan

• **SITUATION**

During the second half of April, isolated immature and mature adults were present at densities of 1-3 per ha at 12 locations along the coast and in the interior of Baluchistan. No locusts were seen by the Iran/Pakistan Joint Survey that was carried during the same period.

During the first half of May, only individual locust adults were seen at five locations in Baluchistan.

• **FORECAST**

Locust numbers will decline in Baluchistan as vegetation becomes dry. No significant developments are likely.

India

• **SITUATION**

No locusts were reported during the second half of April and the first half of May.

• **FORECAST**

Small-scale breeding is likely to commence with the onset of the monsoon rains in Rajasthan. No significant developments are likely.

Afghanistan

• **SITUATION**

No reports received.

• **FORECAST**

No significant developments are likely.



Announcements

Locust reporting. Affected countries are kindly reminded to make sure that locust situation reports are sent to FAO HQ by the 25th day of the month so the information can be included in the FAO bulletin for the current month; otherwise, it will not appear until the following month. Reports should be sent even if no locusts were found or if no surveys were conducted.

Reporting by e-mail. Affected countries are encouraged to send completed *FAO Desert Locust Survey and Control Forms* with a brief interpretation of the results by e-mail to eclo@fao.org.

Desert Locust Guidelines. The revised edition in English was issued on 24 September 2001 and is now available from FAO. Please contact the Locust Group for more information.

eLocust. Details of a new system under evaluation for recording and transmitting locust survey and control data collected in the field can be found on the Internet at:

www.fao.org/news/2001/010601-e.htm

Publications on the Internet. A list of publications that can be downloaded from the FAO Locust webpages is now available (<http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/pubslst.htm>). New additions are:

- Report of the 23rd session of the NW Africa Commission (CLCPANO) in French and Arabic
- Report of the 36th session of the DLCC recently held in Rome (English and French; Arabic upon request)
- FAO Desert Locust Guidelines, revised edition, 2001 (English)
- FAO Spray Monitoring Form (English)

EMPRES Contingency Planning Seminar. Details of the seminar recently held in Egypt are available on the Internet at: www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/0202cont/CPhome.htm

Desert Locust research award. The FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) is pleased to announce a cash award for outstanding research on Desert Locust. For more details, please contact the CRC Office in Cairo (munir.butrous@fao.org).

Desert Locust Control Diploma. The Graduate College of the University of Khartoum is offering a one year post-graduate diploma course in Desert Locust Control that is expected to start in August 2002. Applications should be sent before the first week of June to: Registrar of the Graduate College, University of Khartoum, POB 321, Khartoum, Sudan. For more details: Selbashir@hotmail.com



No. 284

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN



No. 284

DESERT LOCUST BULLETIN

Upcoming events. The following are scheduled:

- **EMPRES/CR.** ULV sprayer evaluation workshop, Cairo (Egypt), 23-25 September
- **EMPRES/WR.** DGPS regional workshop, Nouakchott (Mauritania), 5-10 October
- **EMPRES/CR.** Training of Trainers workshop, Oman, 7-17 October
- **EMPRES/CR.** 10th Liaison officers meeting, Jeddah (Saudi Arabia), 27-31 October
- **EMPRES/DLCO-EA/CRC.** 2nd Joint meeting, Cairo (Egypt), 5-6 November
- **EMPRES/WR.** 1st Liaison officers meeting, Niamey (Niger), 15-20 December
- **SW Asia Commission.** 23rd Session, Islamabad (Pakistan), 15-19 December



Glossary of terms

The following special terms are used in the Desert Locust Bulletin when reporting locusts:

NON-GREGARIOUS ADULTS AND HOPPERS

ISOLATED (FEW)

- very few present and no mutual reaction occurring;
- 0 - 1 adult/400 m foot transect (or less than 25/ha).

SCATTERED (SOME, LOW NUMBERS)

- enough present for mutual reaction to be possible but no ground or basking groups seen;
- 1 - 20 adults/400 m foot transect (or 25 - 500/ha).

GROUP

- forming ground or basking groups;
- 20+ adults/400 m foot transect (or 500+/ha).

ADULT SWARM AND HOPPER BAND SIZES

VERY SMALL

- swarm: less than 1 km² • band: 1 - 25 m²

SMALL

- swarm: 1 - 10 km² • band: 25 - 2,500 m²

MEDIUM

- swarm: 10 - 100 km² • band: 2,500 m² - 10 ha

LARGE

- swarm: 100 - 500 km² • band: 10 - 50 ha

VERY LARGE

- swarm: 500+ km² • band: 50+ ha

RAINFALL

LIGHT

- 1 - 20 mm of rainfall.

MODERATE

- 21 - 50 mm of rainfall.

HEAVY

- 50+ mm of rainfall.

OTHER REPORTING TERMS

BREEDING

- the process of reproduction from copulation to fledging.

SUMMER RAINS AND BREEDING

- July - September/October

WINTER RAINS AND BREEDING

- October - January/February

SPRING RAINS AND BREEDING

- February - June/July

DECLINE

- a period characterised by breeding failure and/or successful control leading to the dissociation of swarming populations and the onset of recessions; can be regional or major.

OUTBREAK

- a marked increase in locust numbers due to concentration, multiplication and gregarisation which, unless checked, can lead to the formation of hopper bands and swarms.

UPSURGE

- a period following a recession marked initially by a very large increase in locust numbers and contemporaneous outbreaks followed by the production of two or more successive seasons of transient-to- gregarious breeding in complimentary seasonal breeding areas in the same or neighbouring Desert Locust regions.

PLAGUE

- a period of one or more years of widespread and heavy infestations, the majority of which occur as bands or swarms. A major plague exists when two or more regions are affected simultaneously.

RECESSION

- period without widespread and heavy infestations by swarms.

REMISSION

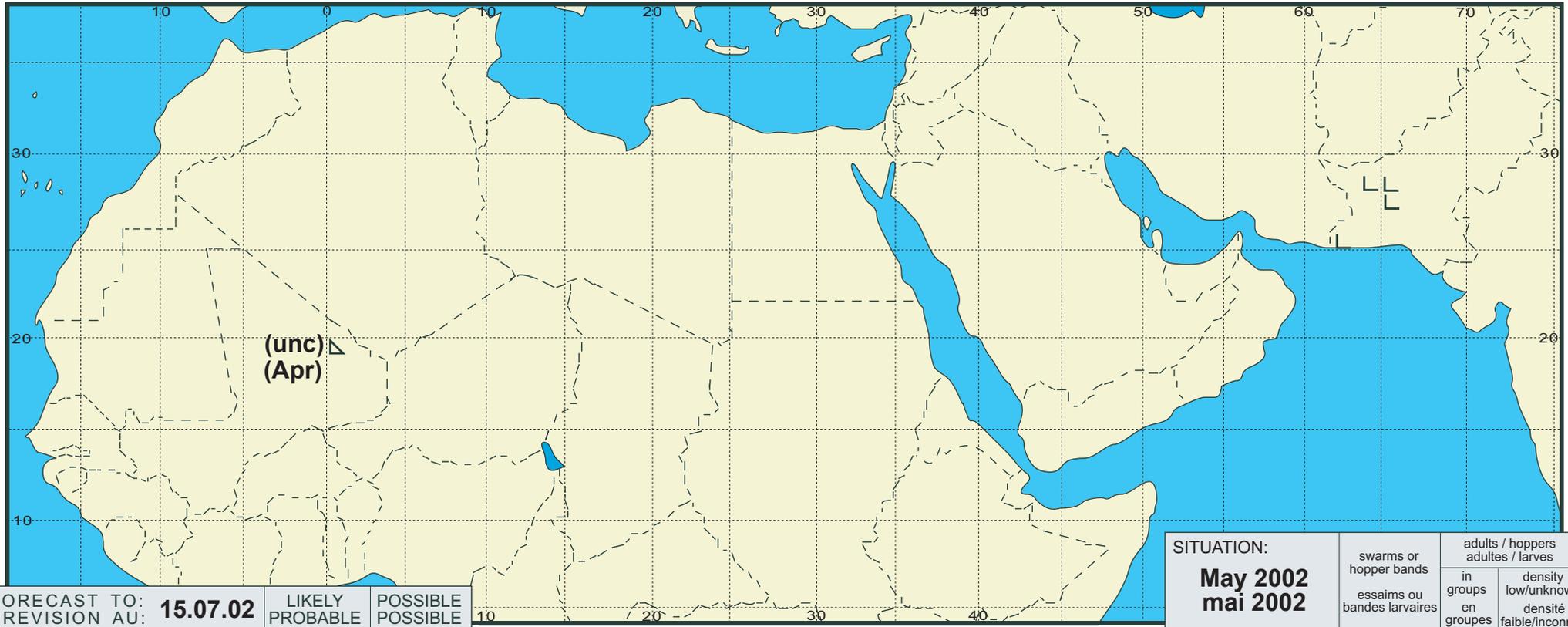
- period of deep recession marked by the complete absence of gregarious populations.



Desert Locust Summary

Criquet pèlerin - Situation résumée

284



FORECAST TO: PREVISION AU: 15.07.02	LIKELY PROBABLE	POSSIBLE POSSIBLE
favourable breeding conditions conditions favorables à la reproduction		
major swarm(s) essaim(s) important(s)		
minor swarm(s) essaim(s) limité(s)		
non swarming adults adultes non essaimant		

SITUATION: May 2002 mai 2002	swarms or hopper bands essaims ou bandes larvaires	adults / hoppers adultes / larves	
		in groups en groupes	density low/unknown densité faible/inconnue
immature adults adultes immatures			
mature or partly mature adults adultes matures ou partiellement matures			
adults, maturity unknown adultes, maturité inconnue			
egg laying or eggs pontes ou œufs			
hoppers larves			
hoppers & adults (combined symbol example) larves et adultes (exemple symboles combinés)			